

A-3 Schools



Importance of Project Based Learning

Here at A-3 schools we aim to strive in the Arts and Sciences. We encourage students to build upon those skills with project based hands on learning.

Project based learning promotes a real-world connection, and enables students to learn what they want to learn about, while working collaboratively in a student driven process. It allows for multifaceted assessments rather than a one size fits all model.

Many of you visited our virtual meet -up with our talented teacher Mr. Wes Davis last month with a Journey to Space. This month, students are invited to continue the journey by working on a Science Fair project of their choice that will be due in April.

Project based learning helps students identify problems and come up with a solution. This promotes for them to be critical thinkers to make solutions as future citizens of a global economy. In the A-3 Science Fair, students will need to identify a problem, and come up with a solution. The projects will be student driven, and will be displayed and presented at our online Science fair assembly in April.

Below are some links to some optional activities that you can use to gather some ideas. These hands on projects, will prepare students to connect to the real world, and beyond!

Real World Connection

Being able to connect what students are learning to the real world through hands on projects has proven to be a great motivator. Use the link below to take a Field trip to



space from home- Learn about space with these hands on activities that flow between core subjects, and connect the subjects with a real world learning experience.

<http://performingineducation.com/2014/05/math-project-based-learning-field-trip-to-space-paper-mache-planets.html>

Project based learning allows students to solve a Question or Challenge

Another facet of hands on learning is having a driving question or challenge to solve. Below is a challenge for you to try with your student at home. These projects go beyond a paper pencil handout, and will get them involved in individualized learning by trying to figure the solution process in their own way.

Stem Challenge-Space Lander Mission. Once we arrive in Space, we will need to have a platform that we can land on, without it collapsing. We will also need a space station to conduct studies. Have your student try out their engineering skills with the following activities from the link below to prepare them for the count off.

<http://frugalfun4boys.com/2016/05/08/engineering-challenges-clothespins-binder-clips-craft-sticks/>

Another benefit of project learning is that it is student driven

With project based learning, the sky is the limit as far as your imagination can stretch to create, and learn with students as the pilots of their own learning. Letting students actively engaged and having them take ownership of their learning makes them life long learners.

Join many students from around the globe on the NASA website to take part in a student driven engineering design! GNASA Educator Professional encourages educators to complete a student driven Engineering Design Challenge using the “Ask, Imagine and Plan” engineering design process. To participate, review the Teacher guides available on line at no cost at:

<https://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/best/activities.html>

One of the joys of hands on learning is the ability to use a Multifaceted Assessment

Project based learning allows students to be part of the assessment, rather than simply being assessed. We encourage students to act as real scientist, assess, investigate, and solve situations that may arise in real world problems based on their projects. Teachers and staff will be here to guide you, but ultimately it will be the students journey to learning.



Culminating Activity

As a culminating activity students will attend an online Science Fair hosted by A-3.

How to sign up for the Science Fair!

Here is the link for the website:

<https://sites.google.com/summitacademycs.org/virtualsciencefair2017/home>

Here is the link for the proposal form:

<https://sites.google.com/summitacademycs.org/virtualsciencefair2017/proposals>

and here is a list of the deadlines:

A3 Education: Science Fair

Today   Tuesday, March 7 

- Friday, March 17**
Project Proposals Due
- Friday, March 31**
Procedures and Plans Due
- Friday, April 14**
Written Reports Due
- Friday, April 28**
Final Presentations Due

Showing events until 5/15. [Look for more](#)

Read Across America!

Read Across America- Homeroom teachers grades K-5 and 6-8 have been reaching out with class connect sessions to celebrate. Don't miss out, make sure to contact your teacher if you have missed out on these fun lessons.

Important Dates!

Meet-Ups- Please see attachments for details

Los Angeles: Saturday March 11 Santa Ana Botanical Gardens

Sacramento: Thursday, March 16- Sacramento School House Museum

Sacramento: Wednesday March 15- The Tempest

Virtual Meetups

All Schools: March 9th Learn how fossils are prepared

All Schools: March 10th Virtual meet ups to South Korea (Irene)

Upcoming- Spring Break! April 10- April 15

Happy Learning!